

Hello I am LeeAnne Walters. My home used to be a place of comfort and safety for my family. It used to be what a home should be, a place of peace and protection from the outside world. That was taken away from us, and not just from my family but from every home and every citizen in Flint. Now my home is known as ground zero. The people in Flint now stand with the people of DC because we now know the horror of poison running from our taps and the negligence from the agencies paid to protect us.

In 2014 a decision was made to switch the water source without the proper testing and enforcement of regulations. The MDEQ claims they misinterpreted federal law regarding corrosion control. They were allowed to tell EPA they were following the law without any verification. The citizens in Flint were assured for 18 months that the water was safe. My home was being tested because of the discoloration of my water and health issues my family was experiencing. We fought with the city and the state that something was wrong and we were dismissed. I decided we needed to get to the science if anyone was ever going to believe us. I started researching and educating myself about water.

I had three tests done by City of Flint, not in accordance to the LCR. These tests were performed with three loop holes to minimize lead. Those numbers were 104ppb, 397ppb and 707ppb. I contacted the EPA and started working with Miguel Deltoral. He was very thorough and knowledgeable in assisting me. I told Mr. Deltoral I did not believe corrosion control was being used, provided him documentations and he verified my findings. Mr. Deltoral questioned the MDEQ, at first they lied and then later admitted the truth. Mr. Deltoral was the only one willing to address the problem. I requested a copy of his report and made it public because people had a right to know.

When that report became public, Susan Hedman, EPA apologized to the city and the MDEQ because of policy. No one but Mr. Deltoral was willing to do their job. Mr. Deltoral was told by the ethics attorney to forward all media requests, including during his personal time to them. He was also advised not to talk about Flint or with anyone from Flint. In a meeting I had with MDEQ, Liane Shektor-Smith bragged to me about how Mr. Deltoral was handled, his report was flawed and there would be no final report. This was the ultimate betrayal for the citizens. Susan Hedman cared more about policy than the welfare of an entire community while punishing and silencing the one person willing to help.

I started doing independent testing with Virginia Tech and thirty tests were done, tests that were performed in accordance to the LCR. My average was 2500ppb and my highest was 13,200ppb. Regardless of this information and the fact that my son had lead poisoning, the city and the MDEQ still continued to tell everyone the water was safe as the EPA remained silent.

With the help of Virginia Tech we conducted a citizen based sampling test. We educated and distributed 300 samples equally throughout the city. We collected back 277 samples. All of this was done in a 3 week turn around.

Here are the facts:

After the tragedy DC from 2001-2006 where children were poisoned by lead in the water the EPA should have IMMEDIATELY closed the loop holes to protect all citizens

Had the EPA closed the loop holes then it could have 100% prevented what now took place in Flint

EPA has failed to protect people by refusing to ban partial lead service line replacement

The EPA's LCR National Report from 2006 states the lack of system response for lead exceedance is especially true to inform the public. It was done less than 1/3 of the time.

From my research I have found this is not a Flint problem or a rare anomaly, this IS a NATIONAL problem.

Only 10 states accurately test according to the LCR

21 states do not reveal their sampling instruction

19 states have similar loopholes to Michigan

There is no justifiable reason for these 3 loopholes except to hide lead. These are the loopholes that need to be eliminated.

1. Pre-flush, 2. Small mouthed Bottles, 3. Cap on Stagnation

I spoke against the NDWAC recommendations that are now currently under advisement by the EPA. These recommendations will weaken an already broken system. I am outraged that the EPA continues to allow this type of dishonesty with testing to continue nationally.

The citizens in Flint are relying on each other because we have no choice and no one to trust but Virginia Tech. There are people in Flint still today not being assisted during this crisis, illegal immigrants, disabled, and shut-ins. Broken policies and procedures are smothering the outcry of an entire community who are suffering, financially, physically, mentally and emotionally. I urge you to help restore the trust lost and protect ALL citizens in the United States by never allowing this to happen again. We need this to happen NOW, not ten years from now. I encourage your questions and hope for an open dialogue with all members of this hearing now and in the future.

LeAnne Walters Committee Questions.

1. A. December 2014 right after Christmas. It was the first time we had experienced brown water. We were one of the people who lost power for Christmas and after the power came back on is when it happened. Persist contact was January 2015 after the TTHM notice and when our brown water became a more common thing in my home.

B. First contact was through Howard Croft via email to GCHO in regards to the rashes, was not addressed until MONTHS later. He emailed and cc'ed me in after I provided the COF Dr's notes about my son's compromised immune system. The first Dr's note stated my son was not allowed to consume the water with an additional Dr's note explaining how badly my son would break out when he came in contact with the water.

C. January 2015 through City Council meetings that they were attending and through phone calls. It was immediately apparent that neither COF or MDEQ were prepared to answer actual real questions.

D. I called the EPA in January 2015 in regards to the effects of TTHMs and the lack of information about inhalation and dermal absorption being given to the citizens from the COF. Was told in a City Council meeting it did not apply to drinking water standards so I went home and put an entire list of health effects with a reference page for all of City Council, EM, Mayor, etc and made it apply to drinking water. When I did that I was told by COF that they legally told us what they HAD to tell us and was told if I had an issue with the lack of additional information to take it up with the EPA, so I did. I was given the blow off answer from EPA that they understand inhalation and dermal absorption is worse then drinking water and it is under review.

2. Aside from Miguel Deltoral, From February 2015-May 2015 Michael Glasgow was honestly trying to help my family and all the other citizens in Flint. I cant speak past that time frame, when he took on the new job we had very limited communication. From February 2015-May 2015 it was clear Mr. Glasgow was not getting adequate assistance for the issues in Flint from COF officials or MDEQ. It was obvious from the very first meeting with COF and MDEQ bare minimum for answers was the goal, very scripted on the information given and responses to questions. MDEQ response for the water issues were to blame the homeowners and try to discredit, demean, dismiss and publicly humiliate the citizens that were raising red flags. COF was horrible with responses, lying, unanswered questions and blatant disregard for what was happening, MDEQ was worse. My home was not the only home with brown water, rashes and hair loss. When it got to a certain point where lies were no longer working it was cover up mode. For example the contract that was used a leverage from the city to replace my service line. I am not sure how familiar anyone is about the contract and the timeline of events so I dont know how much detail is needed in this email. I can say I was told numerous times to my face how concerned everyone was with my situation and the actions that followed afterwards said otherwise.

3. Miguel Deltoral apologized to me July 2015 for how EPA was handling everything. It wasnt his wrong doing he was apologizing for.

Joel Beauvais EPA sincerely apologized to me in person January 19, 2016

Governor Snyder apologized to me March 11, 2016.

4. When I was associated with Water You Fighting For it was started to educate and inform people about what was really going on with the water situation based off of my research. I am no longer associated with Water You Fighting For because of the embellishments of information from the other co founder and the medical advice on how to treat people's children she is practicing. I refuse to be part of that behavior, I want to help with the solution to this crisis, not add it to.

5. My envision of how to protect people with the lead and copper rule extends to all participants involved in the testing procedure and is as followed:

1. Making it illegal to test with the 3 known loop holes, preflush, wrong mouth sized bottles and cap on stagnation.

2. Changing the test from one draw sample to a 2 draw sample to adequately draw from exterior service line.

3. Change the EPA exceedance level from 15ppb to a minimum of 10ppb.

4. Transparency on all parties for citizens to be confident on results and to not make it impossible for citizenst

to get this information.

5. A check and balance system in place between City/State/Federal to address immediate issues. EPA HAS TO verify if there is any doubt.

6. 48hr-72hr mandatory notice to citizen/city/state/EPA instead of 30 days.

7. Public education immediately if there is a problem or think there is a problem.

Representative Irwing

1. Immediate relief is for 211 to actually work for the citizens. Water distribution and water filters are still a HUGE problem for disabled, homebound and shut ins.

Medical services and mental health services need to be extended to EVERY resident in Flint, not just under the age of 6 years old. Assistants for every resident who is on medicaid that have spend downs. Those spend downs for people who now have serious health issues are bankrupting citizens in Flint for health issues that should have never happened. Healthy food need to be extended to EVERY resident in Flint.

Shower filters for all resident to stop people from being taken advantage of by these people who are now selling these expensive whole home filters that will NOT help right now.

Actual relief for water bills. The fact that the water is still NOT safe and people have to pay for it is disgraceful. Addressing how MDEQ/HHS/Police are notifying citizens if they are over action levels. I have heard from more than one citizen that they leave no cards for point of contact or to keep track who came to these people's homes.

Transparency on ALL donations, this money is NOT going to the citizens.

Money for infrastructure.

Long term:

Medical and mental health services to all citizens who have actually illnesses from the water.

Programs funded and in place for the children under the age of 6 that were affected for the next 20 years.

Infrastructure

Transparency on all levels of government to assist with the mistrust. I recently started my own organization because of this called Community Development Organization because the best representation for the citizens is not happening.

2. My family was not offered ANY services until late February 2016 and its still a work in progress. The fact that it took 11 months for that offer is pathetic. The wrap around services that are out in the media are quite frankly a joke.